

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical preparation, in the form of a solution, comprising

- a) nonvolatile constituents, which comprise
urea as the only active agent in the pharmaceutical preparation in
an amount from 41 40 percent by weight to 69 70 percent by weight,
relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation, and
a hydrophilic film-forming agent,
wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected
from among acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers,
polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone
copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl
ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides,
carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose,
hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof,

and

- b) water or an alcohol-water mixture.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from 29 percent by weight to 59 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

4. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein urea is present in an amount from 45 percent by weight to 65 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

5. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein urea is present in an amount from 46 percent by weight to 63 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

6. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein urea is present in an amount from 55 percent by weight to 63 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a polyvinylpyrrolidone.

9. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein the aqueous-alcoholic solution comprises an alcohol selected from among methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, pentanol, hexanol, and a mixture thereof.

10. (Original) The preparation of claim 9, wherein the alcohol is ethanol, n-propanol or isopropanol.

11. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water is from 9:1 to 1:9.

12. (Original) The preparation of claim 11, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water comprises 2 parts of alcohol to 3 parts of water.

13. (Original) The preparation of claim 1, further comprising lactic acid.

14. (Original) The preparation of claim 13, wherein the lactic acid is present in an amount from 0.5 percent by weight to 5 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire preparation.

Claims 15 and 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating or~~ detaching abnormal keratinous material comprising contacting the abnormal keratinous material with a pharmaceutical preparation, in the form of a solution, comprising

- a) nonvolatile constituents, which comprise
urea as the only active agent in the pharmaceutical preparation in an amount from ~~41~~ 30 percent by weight to ~~69~~ 90 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation, and

- a hydrophilic film-forming agent,

- wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from among acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof,

and

- b) water or an alcohol-water mixture,
allowing a sufficient period of time to pass for the preparation to act on the material, and mechanically detaching the material to which the preparation has been applied.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 65 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

Claim 20 (Canceled)

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein urea is present in an amount from 46 percent by weight to 63 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein urea is present in an amount from 55 percent by weight to 63 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

Claim 23 (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 20 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the abnormal keratinous material is selected from toenails and fingernails that have been changed by fungal attack or psoriatic disease.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the urea is present in an amount from 15 percent by weight to 35 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire preparation.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the urea is present in an amount from 25 percent by weight to 33 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire preparation.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from approximately 15 percent by weight to approximately 35 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire preparation.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present from 17 percent to 25 percent, relative to the weight of the entire preparation.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of hydrating brittle toenails or fingernails comprising applying ~~the preparation of claim 1~~ to brittle toenails or fingernails a pharmaceutical preparation, in the form of a solution, comprising

a) nonvolatile constituents, which comprise

urea in an amount from 41 percent by weight to 69 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation, and a hydrophilic film-forming agent, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from among acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof,
and
b) water or an alcohol-water mixture.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for detaching or treating abnormal keratinous material, comprising applying to the material a preparation, in the form of a solution, comprising water, urea as the only active agent in the pharmaceutical preparation in an amount from 41 percent by weight to 69 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation, and a hydrophilic film forming agent, wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from among acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the abnormal keratinous material is keratinous material changed by fungal attack.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the keratinous material is selected from toenails and fingernails.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, which comprises the treatment of toenails or fingernails changed by fungal attack.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the preparation contains ~~urea in an amount of about 30 to about 90 weight-% or the film-forming agent in an amount of about 10 to about 70 weight-%, or urea in an amount of about 30 to about 90 weight-% and the film-forming agent in an amount of about 10 to about 70 weight-%, based on the non-volatile constituents.~~

Claims 36 and 37 (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the preparation contains the film-forming agent in an amount of 15 to 65 weight-%, based on the non-volatile constituents.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the preparation contains the film-forming agent in an amount of 15 to 20 weight%, based on the non-volatile constituents.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the film-forming agent is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the preparation further comprises a plasticizer or pH-regulating agents or a plasticizer and pH-regulating agents.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the preparation comprises an alcohol-water mixture.

Claim 43 (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the preparation is incorporated into a cosmetic.